

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A seal structure of a fuel cell, said fuel cell including an MEA, a separator made from metal, a gas passage formed in said separator, a gas manifold formed in said separator, a connecting gas passage formed in said separator and between said gas passage and said gas manifold, a coolant passage formed in said separator, a coolant manifold formed in said separator, a connecting coolant passage formed in said separator and between said coolant passage and said coolant manifold, and a seal including a gas seal line and a coolant seal line for preventing gas and/or coolant from leaking and defining a continuous seal line, said seal structure of a fuel cell, comprising:

an interrupted back-up disposed at an at least one of said connecting gas passage and said connecting coolant passage,

wherein said back-up is located on one side of said separator and a portion of the gas or coolant seal line located on the other side of said separator being disposed such that said back-up and said portion of said seal line are overlapped with each other in a fuel cell stacking direction,

wherein said back-up is integrated within formed in said separator and includes a rib having a convex and concave structure, and

wherein the back-up is integrated within formed in the metal separator.

wherein the other of the gas or coolant seal line is located on the same side as said back-up and includes a straight line portion located on a same straight line as said back-up and wherein the gas seal line is made of adhesive.

15. (Previously Presented) A seal structure of a fuel cell according to claim 14, wherein said back-up is disposed at said connecting gas passage between said gas passage and said gas manifold.

16. (Previously Presented) A seal structure of a fuel cell according to claim 14, wherein said back-up is disposed at said connecting coolant passage between said coolant passage and said coolant manifold.

17. (Previously Presented) A seal structure of a fuel cell according to claim 14, wherein though said gas manifold and said coolant manifold differ in width to each other, said interrupted back-up and a portion of said seal line positioned in an extension of said interrupted back-up are disposed on a same straight line.

18. (Currently Amended) A seal structure of a fuel cell according to claim 14, wherein said back-up ~~is formed in said separator and~~ includes a plurality of protrusions spaced from each other.

19. (Currently Amended) A seal structure of a fuel cell according to claim 14, wherein said back-up ~~is formed in said separator and~~ includes a rib having a plurality of tunnels formed in said rib and spaced from each other.

20. (Previously Presented) A seal structure of a fuel cell according to claim 14, wherein an entire portion of said back-up located between adjacent separators is formed in one separator of the adjacent separators.

21. (Previously Presented) A seal structure of a fuel cell according to claim 14, wherein a portion of said back-up located between adjacent separators is formed in one separator of the adjacent separators, and a remaining portion of said back-up located between adjacent separators is formed in the other separator of the adjacent separators.

22. (Currently Amended) A seal structure of a fuel cell according to claim 14, wherein said back-up is formed in said separator and includes a rib having a plurality of tunnels formed in said rib, between the separator and a cover plate, and spaced from each other, and the cover plate.

contacts an adjacent separator.

23. (Currently Amended) A seal structure of a fuel cell, said fuel cell including an MEA, a separator made from metal, a gas passage formed in said separator, a gas manifold formed in said separator, a connecting gas passage formed in said separator and between said gas passage and said gas manifold, a coolant passage formed in said separator, a coolant manifold formed in said separator, a connecting coolant passage formed in said separator and between said coolant passage and said coolant manifold, and a seal including a gas seal line and a coolant seal line for preventing gas and/or coolant from leaking and defining a continuous seal line, said seal structure of a fuel, comprising:

an interrupted back-up disposed at an at least one of said connecting gas passage and said connecting coolant passage,

wherein said back-up being located on one side of said separator and a portion of the gas or coolant seal line located on the other side of said separator being disposed such that said back-up and said portion of said seal line are overlapped with each other in a fuel cell stacking direction,

wherein said back-up is integrated within formed in said separator and includes a rib having a convex and concave structure, and

wherein the back up is integrally formed in the metal separator.

wherein the other of the gas or coolant seal line is located on the same side as said back-up and includes a straight line portion located on a same straight line as said back-up and the gas seal line is made from an adhesive,

wherein said back-up is formed at the at least one of said connecting gas passage and said connecting coolant passage at a portion of said separator where the seal does not exist, and

wherein said back-up is formed in said separator and includes a rib having a plurality of tunnels formed in said rib, between the separator and a cover plate, and spaced from each other, and the cover plate contacts an adjacent separator.

24. (Canceled).